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18 September 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: The Szulc Leaks Continued -- DOD Conversations

1. During my session with Deputy Secretary Rush on Monday, 18 September (Laird was absent), we engaged in some polite discussion about the general subject of leaks and the particular subject of the alleged intelligence documents referred to by Tad Szulc in the New York Times on 13 September. I briefly reviewed for Rush the substance of my 13 September memo to you without, of course, mentioning the latter in any way. I told him the only three Agency documents that remotely fit Szulc's description were the 18 July memo for Laird hand-delivered to him and to Laird on 31 July; an 11 August memorandum specifically requested by the President and therefore sent only to Dr. Kissinger's office and a 22 August memorandum also requested by the President and also sent only to Dr. Kissinger. Thus we felt fairly strongly that either Szulc had not seen any such Agency report or, if he had seen an Agency document, it had leaked from an area that should be watertight. Rush took all this with very good grace and said he hoped the leak had not come out of the Defense Department. He found it difficult to envisage how any such leak from Defense might have occurred but was personally quite concerned about the number of sensitive DOD documents which seemed to find their way into Congressional hands or into public print.

2. After the session with Rush, I stopped by to chat with Rear Admiral Murphy (Laird's Executive Assistant) to deliver the message to him that you had commissioned me to deliver. With him, I covered the same ground that I had just covered with Deputy Secretary Rush, though in slightly starchier terms. Politely but pointedly I told Admiral Murphy that if one of our documents had leaked that leak had to have come from the Office of the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of Defense or from the White House. Murphy thanked me for the information and said he would relay it to Secretary Laird.

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George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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